Navigating Visa

mirror, mirror on the wall –

she's free to define herself, *after all!*

a zine

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“Growing up, I heard countless phrases like

‘as a future wife...’

‘as a future mom...’

but why is a future identity automatically assigned to me,

without ever giving me space to choose who I want to be now?

We're rarely told to just be ourselves. We're told to be a good someone's daughter, someone’s wife, someone's mother – but rarely someone complete on our own. These future roles shaped so much of how I was raised. But who am I, actually, in my own faith?

and sadly, this isn’t just my experience...”

Raf, 20!

Within the Islamic worldview, men and women are equally created for a single, profound purpose: to worship God. But guess what—the act of worship is not narrow or confined. It manifests in countless ways. Creating. Leaving a good mark on the world. Helping another soul.

Yet there is a culturally rooted concept that a woman's role is only to serve her family. Yes, that is one beautiful path, but it is not the only one. In Islam, you are not just permitted, but encouraged to hold multiple identities.

A scholar.

A leader.

A friend.

An artist.

An entrepreneur.

A seeker of knowledge

In fact, you should.

A runner

Because our journey starts from how we look at ourselves!

“*ok! let the girls enter school – because*

Woman's greatest role is to be Madrasatul Uula — ‘the first school’ for her children.”

**Yes, a mother shapes generations.
Yes, that is sacred.**

But, a woman deserves education for herself not because she will be a mother or that she will raise better children, but because she is a human being.

“Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim."

(Sunan Ibn Majah)

Let’s widen the narrative!

1,200 years ago — before Oxford, before the Sorbonne — Fatima al-Fihri founded the world's first university

In 859 CE, Fatima — the daughter of a wealthy merchant — inherited her father's fortune. But instead of keeping it for herself, she used every dirham to build a mosque and a school – then became the University of al-Qarawiyyin.

Most historians agree that Al-Qarawiyyin was the world’s first-degree granting institution, a leading centre of scientific debate and scholarship

"why should women pursue higher education if they belong in the kitchen?"

So... did she just invent higher education before the question itself? :P

Erin

Wanted to be an astronaut and reporter!

Raf

I like Cars and want to rule a city! #kachow

At certain points in life, our paths crossed – and we Navigated Nisa together!"

A Law Student,
An artist
A reporter
An event decorator

"I now do Campus Pers! I want to raise awareness by connecting people to issues"

A Politics Student
Human Rights Activist
Student Societies

Sarah

i'm inspired by professor bina shaheen siddiqui bcs she has 12 patents for anti-cancer constituents!

An Urban & Policy student
Inclusive city & public transport advocate

Cities apart, we're still and will always be Navigating Nisa together!

let's spot the gap in the map

- Between 2019–2024, HK saw at least 20 reported forced marriage cases involving young Muslim women – some still in secondary school.

1 case is already too many.

Islam explicitly establishes the equality of men and women in their humanity... Every man and woman is equal in their humanity and dignity before God.

Kowloon Mosque's Chief Imam:
"Islam does not allow forced marriage. Since 1450 years ago, marriage requires mutual consent."

Because women's decision alone is legitimate :)

“when are you gonna marry? why did you reject him?”

those aunties again! okay, at least you know that:

A woman's purpose isn't defined by marriage.

Rabi'ah al-Adawiyyah was an 8th-century Muslim saint and scholar who pioneered the concept of mahabbah – pure love of God, without fear of hell or desire for paradise. She became the first woman to be recognized as a major Sufi master.

A woman's worth isn't tied to marriage. Rabi'ah was respected by scholars, sought out for her wisdom, and called Ummul Khayr or Mother of Goodness. Sometimes the most powerful thing a woman can do is choose her own way – just as Rabi'ah chose God and her love for knowledge.

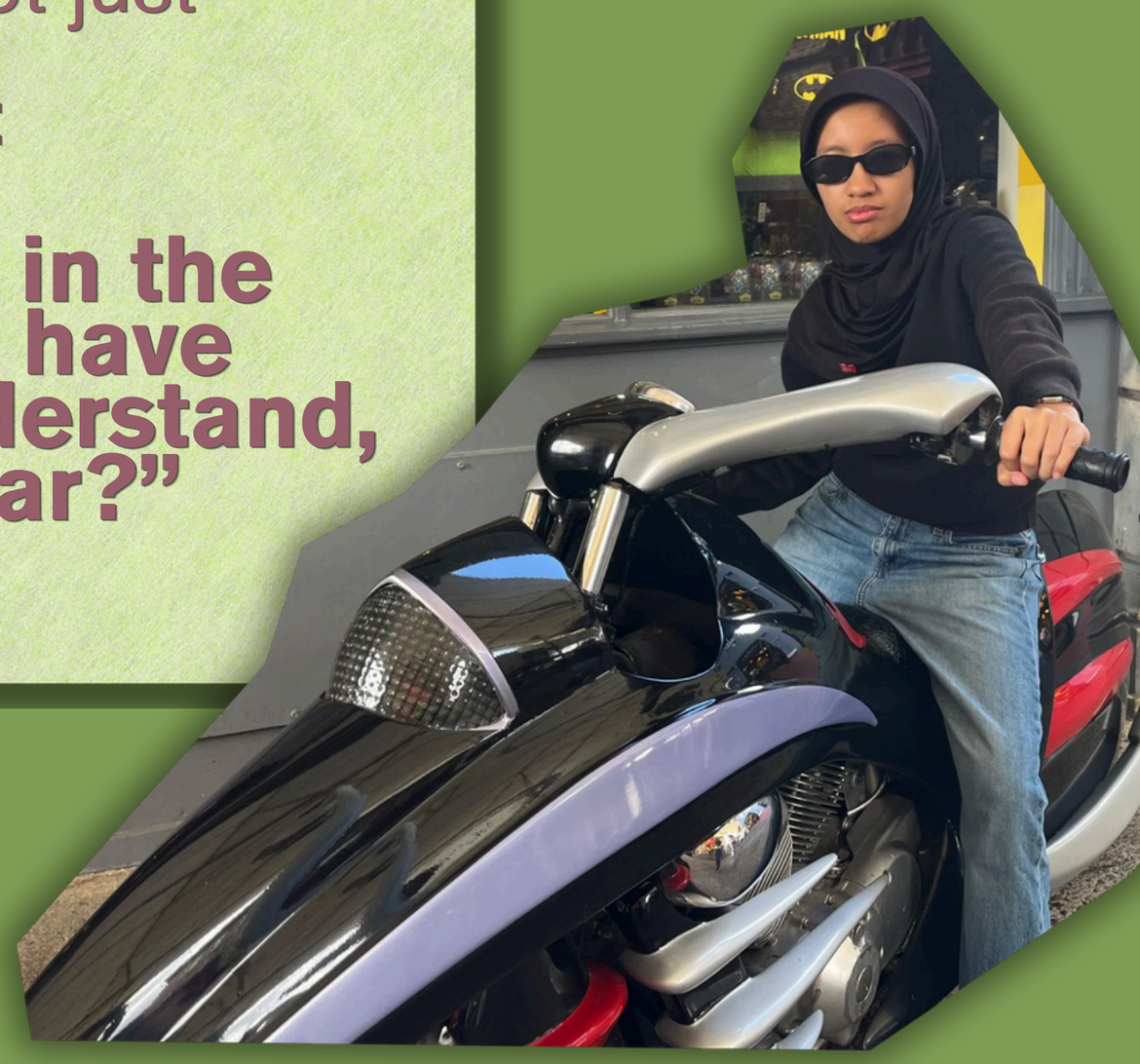
This is Wazna. She loves traveling!

“A few times, I've heard stories of married women having free time and travelling with friends, or even solo. For some people it looks normal. But I learned that turns out, it is a luxury for many.”

Islam encourages traveling—not just for leisure, but for education, reflection, and spiritual growth:

“Have they not travelled in the land so that they should have hearts with which to understand, or ears with which to hear?”

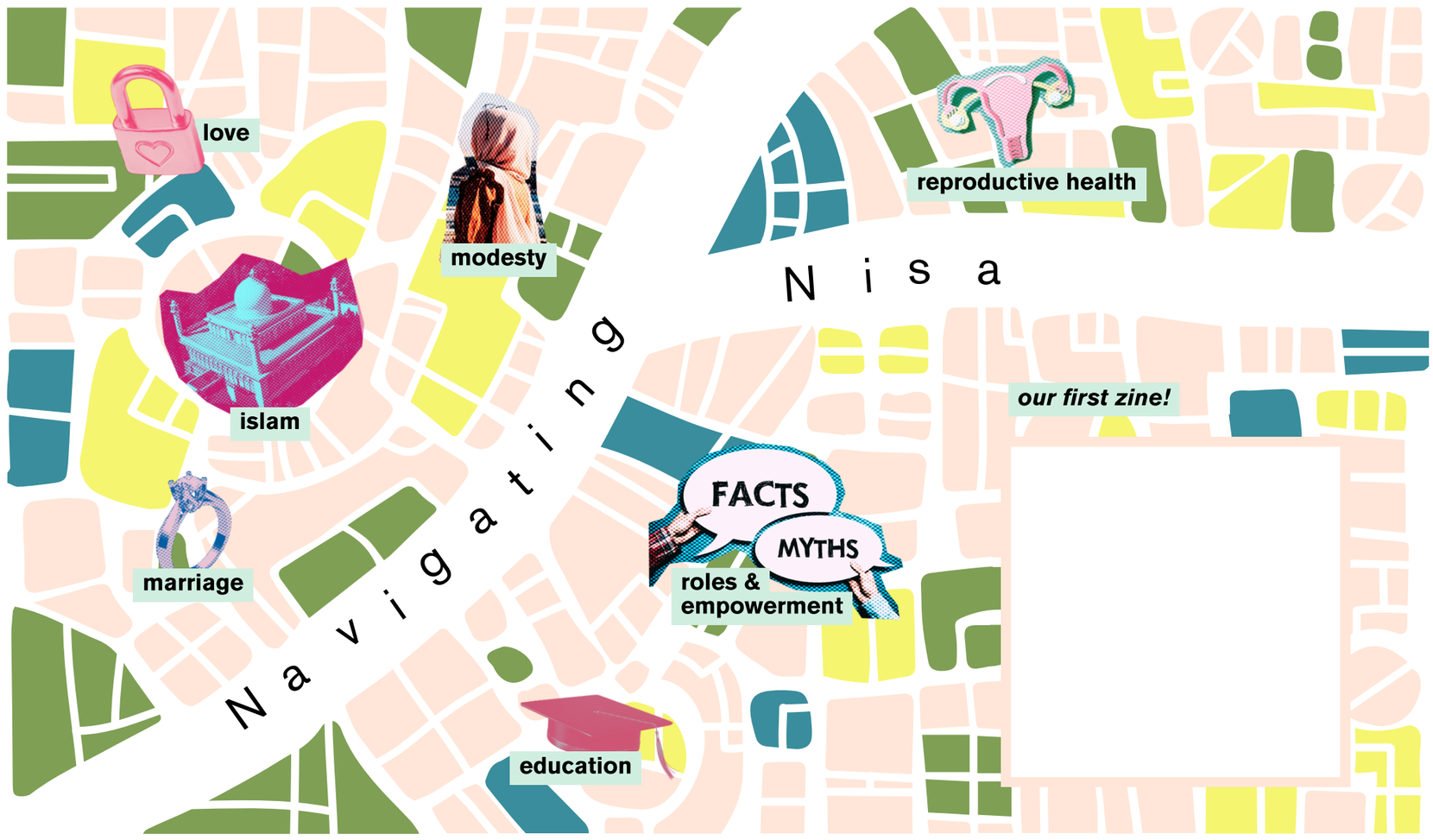
(Surat al-Hajj, No.22, Verse 46)



Let’s build solid identities that it wouldn’t dissolve into the house!

she will return – traveling indonesia and beyond (2983829267 cities), soon!

own those identities.
we are rooting for you!



Thanks for reading! We are a small zine initiative for young Muslim women in Hong Kong aimed to create faith-grounded, scientifically-informed space to talk about separating Islamic values vs cultural myths

with other Muslim women who belong every layer of society – **seeing the urban through our own lenses** as we navigate faith, society, and our womanhood